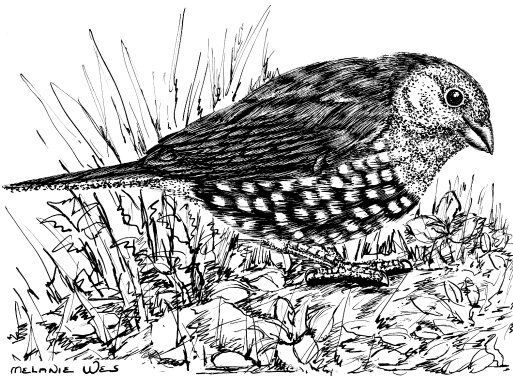




Pinkthroated Twinspot

Rooskeelkoltensie

Hypargos margaritatus

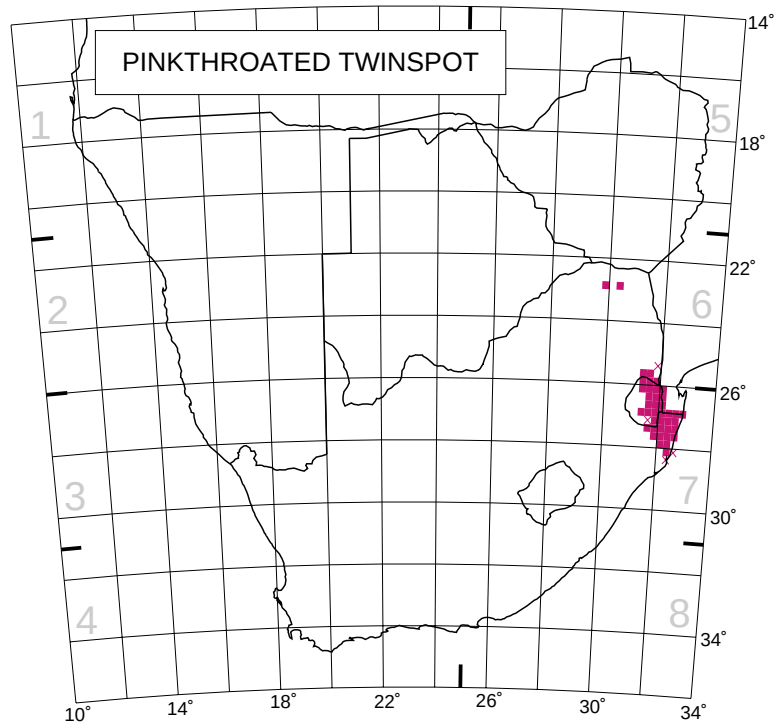
The Pinkthroated Twinspot is a southern African endemic with a restricted range. It occurs from Lake St Lucia (2832AB) to the Save River (about 21°S) in southern Mozambique (Clancey 1985c) and extends into eastern Swaziland and marginally into the lowlands of northeastern and extreme southeastern Transvaal (Edmonds 1984; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b). In South Africa it occurs mainly on the sandy coastal plain of northern KwaZulu-Natal. In the Kruger National Park, it occurs in the northeastern sandy Nyandu Bush (2231CD) on the Mozambique border. It has also been found further west into the Transvaal (2229DD, 2230CD) (Hockey *et al.* 1995). A record of the Redthroated Twinspot *H. niveoguttatus* (Newman & Nel 1980) from the same area requires confirmation.

It occurs in dry woodlands with dense thickets and comparatively little grass, mainly within the East Coast Littoral and Arid Woodland vegetation types, but also adjacent to Afromontane Forest along the Lebombo range (2632A,C, 2732A) (Cyrus & Robson 1980). It is typically found close to the ground, is inconspicuous and is usually detected only by its soft call, and so may have been under-reported. It occurs in pairs or family groups. Locally it can be fairly common.

It is not known to migrate although there is a clear increase in reporting rates in winter/spring. This may be a result of increased visibility because of a reduction in vegetative cover, and possibly also greater mobility to find food.

The historical distribution is not known to have differed from the present (e.g. Cyrus & Robson 1980). Clancey (1971c) suggested that this species is being replaced by the Redthroated Twinspot in southern Mozambique. However, the Pinkthroated occupies drier habitats than the Redthroated Twinspot. This species was classed as 'rare' in South Africa by Brooke (1984b), and as a species worth monitoring by Collar & Stuart (1985). It occurs in substantial areas of protected habitat in South Africa.

A. Berruti



Recorded in 44 grid cells, 1.0%
Total number of records: 532
Mean reporting rate for range: 13.3%

Reporting rates for vegetation types

